

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6454

S E C R E T ATHENS 8564

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY VARVITSIOTIS:

CARAMANLIS-MAKARIOS TALKS

REF: A. ATHENS 8560

B. ATHENS 8555

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO ANKARA AND NICOSIA AS DESIRED

1. LIKE AVEROFF (REF A) THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JOHN VARVITSIOTIS, SEEMED BOTH RELIEVED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE WEEKEND CARAMANLIS/MAKARIOS/CLERIDES SUMMIT MEETING IN ATHENS. VARVITSIOTIS GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT MAKARIOS HAD FOUND HIMSELF IN A CONFERENCE WHERE PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, BOTH GREEK AND GREEK CYPRIOT, WERE IN AGREEMENT, AND THE ARCHBISHOP FOUND IT BOTH ADVISABLE AND PRUDENT TO BE COOPERATIVE.

2. JOHN VARVITSIOTIS IS A 40-YEAR OLD UP-AND-COMING POLITICIAN, WHO, AS A STRONG BACKER OF CARAMANLIS, WAS JUST ELECTED TO THE PARLIAMENT. HE WAS NAMED UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TEN DAYS AGO WHEN BITSIOS WAS RE-NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER. I MADE MY FIRST CALL ON VARVITSIOTIS THIS MORNING AND AFTER GET-ACQUAINTED TYPE REMARKS ASKED HIM ABOUT THE MEETINGS WITH MAKARIOS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WHICH HE HAD ATTENDED. VARVITSIOTIS SAID THAT THE COMMUNIQUE (SEPTTEL) FAITHFULLY REFLECTED THE AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE "GREEK SIDE" OF A "COORDINATED POSITION" FOR NEGOTIATING

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A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. VARVITSIOTIS CONFIRMED THAT CLERIDES

WOULD BE GIVEN ALL THE MANDATE AND INSTRUCTIONS HE REQUIRED, IN WRITING, TO HAVE DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH DENKTASH. HE SAID THAT MAKARIOS HAD GONE ALONG WITH THESE ARRANGEMENTS ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT THE ARCHBISHOP MAY HAVE BEEN GRUDGING ON SOME POINTS.

3. VARVITSIOTIS WAS UNWILLING TO OPEN VERY MUCH WITH ME IN THIS FIRST MEETING AND I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS FEELING HIS WAY AS TO HOW FAR HE SHOULD GO AND HOW HE SHOULD DEAL WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION HE MADE A POINT SEVERAL TIMES OF STRESSING THAT A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS DEPENDED UPON THE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF "MANY PERSONALITIES", AND HE SEEMED TO BE DISCOUNTING THE IMPORTANCE OF ANY ONE PERSON OR PARTY. HE ALSO GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AT THIS SUMMIT MEETING ON THE STRATEGY AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE GREEKS AND THAT THEY HAVE ADOPTED A GENERAL PLAN OF APPROACH GEARED TO VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAPPEN IN ANKARA OR ELSEWHERE.

4. VARVITSIOTIS SAID THAT MAKARIOS WOULD RETURN TO CYPRUS LATER THIS WEEK, PROBABLY DECEMBER 6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION HE SAID THAT HE EXPECTED MAKARIOS TO REMAIN IN CYPRUS AND NOT TO RETURN TO ATHENS ANYTIME SOON.

5. VARVITSIOTIS TOLD ME BITSIOS HAD DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE EEC MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS AND MAY CANCEL THIS TRIP ALTOGETHER.

6. SINCE DICTATING THE ABOVE, I HAVE HAD A CALL FROM BITSIOS' OFFICE AND WE HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING AT HIS OFFICE THIS EVENING.
KUBISCH

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